

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

(43) International Publication Date
22 March 2001 (22.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/20943 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04Q 7/38, H04B 7/185, H01Q 1/28

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/17501

(22) International Filing Date: 26 June 2000 (26.06.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 60/153,620 13 September 1999 (13.09.1999) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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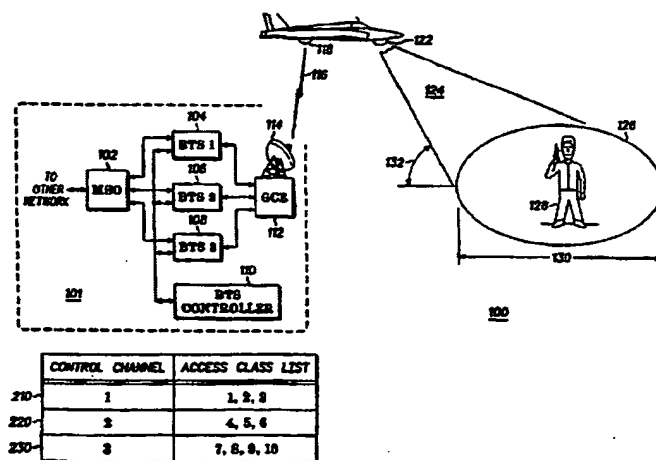
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Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM LOAD CONTROL METHODS AND APPARATUS



MSO ... MOBILE SWITCHING OFFICE
BTS ... BASE TRANSCEIVER STATION
GCE ... GROUND CONVERSION EQUIPMENT

(57) Abstract: A communications system (100) includes an aircraft (120) that acts as a repeater between ground equipment (101) and communication units (128) on the ground. The ground equipment (101) includes multiple base transceiver stations (104, 106, 108) that provide traffic channels, control channels, and access channels. The channels are all in a single beam (124) projected from aircraft (120). Relative loading on access channels is influenced by access class lists (200, Fig. 2) assigned to control channels. Access classes can be transferred from one list to another, or they can be removed from a list. Relative loading of traffic channels on the base transceiver stations is influenced by assigning different time offsets to each base transceiver station so that calls can be transferred from one base transceiver station to another.